

**REMARKS**

By way of the foregoing amendments, the claims have been amended to delete the multiple dependencies and to replace the phrase "characterized in that" with "wherein". No new matter has been introduced by these changes.

It is requested that the application be examined on the basis of the claims as amended.

Early and favorable consideration with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 16, 2004

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